Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Optical disc (2) suitable for optically storing information in multiple sessions (51), having a memory chip (60) containing session information stored therein, wherein the stored session information pertains to session states and track states, **wherein said session states pertain to a session's length, position and starting point and said track states pertain to the status of each session track being one of open, closed or invisible, and** wherein said session information is only retrievable from said memory chip (60) by initiating a session state read/write process from a control circuit of an optical disc drive read/write apparatus (1) configured for reading optical information directly from said optical disc (2).

2. (Original) Optical disc according to claim 1, the disc having at least one track (50) for storing information, a lead-in portion (53) of the track also containing session information recorded therein.

3. (Previously Presented) Optical disc drive apparatus (1) for reading optical information from an optical disc (2) according to claim 1, the optical disc drive apparatus being adapted for reading session information from said memory chip (60) and using this information when accessing the optical disc.

4. (Original) Optical disc drive apparatus according to claim 3, comprising: means (4, 6) for receiving and rotating an optical disc; an optical system (30) and an actuator system (40), controlled by a control circuit (90), for scanning tracks (50) of the disc (2) using an optical beam (32) for reading information from said track; a chip reader/writer device (61), coupled to an input/output port (98) of the control circuit (90), adapted for communication with said chip (60) of the disc (2); wherein the control circuit (90) is adapted, in response to a read

command, to read session information from said chip (60).

5. (Previously Presented) Optical disc drive apparatus according to claim 4, the optical disc drive apparatus comprising means for reading information from an optical disc, said information reading means further comprising:

means for receiving a user instruction to read a specific piece of information from said optical disc;

means for consulting the session information in said memory chip (60);

means for determining the position where the required information is to be found; and

means for jumping to the location determined by said determining means.

6. (Previously Presented) Optical disc drive apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

means for checking whether the disc (2) carries a memory chip (60) with session information,

wherein said checking means is performed prior to said consulting means;

and upon satisfying said checking means performing said consulting means through said jumping means, according to claim 5.

7. (Previously Presented) Optical disc drive apparatus for writing optical information into an optical disc (2) according to claim 1, the optical disc drive apparatus comprising:

means for reading session information from said memory chip; and

means for using the session information when accessing the optical disc,

wherein the optical disc drive apparatus is adapted to store session information into said memory chip after having performed a write operation.

8. (Original) Optical disc drive apparatus according to claim 7, comprising:

means (4, 6) for receiving and rotating an optical disc;

an optical system (30) and an actuator system (40), controlled by a control circuit (90), for scanning tracks (50) of the disc (2) using an optical beam (32) for writing

information into said track or for reading information from said track;

a chip reader/writer device (61), coupled to an input/output port (98) of the control circuit (90), adapted for communication with said chip (60) of the disc (2);

wherein the control circuit (90) is adapted, in response to a write command, to read session information from said chip (60).

9. (Previously Presented) Optical disc drive apparatus according to claim 8, the optical disc drive apparatus comprising:

means for performing an information writing method, said means comprising:

means for receiving a user instruction to write a specific piece of information;

means for consulting the session information in memory chip (60);

means for determining a free track portion where writing may take place;

means for jumping to a position at the beginning of the track portion determined by said determining means;

means for writing the information in a new session; after having completed the new session,

means for writing updated session information into the memory chip 60.

10. (Previously Presented) Optical disc drive apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the optical disc drive apparatus further comprises:

means for checking whether the disc (2) carries a memory chip (60) with session information; and upon satisfying said checking means performing said consulting means through said writing means, according to claim 9.

11. (Original) Optical disc drive apparatus according to claim 7, capable of performing a random write operation on a recordable optical disc (R-type).

12. (Currently Amended) An optical disc (2) comprising written track portions (51) where information has been written and blank track portions (52) where information has not been written, the optical disc (2) further comprising a memory chip (60) for storing session information pertaining to session states and track states relating to the information written to the written track portions (51) of a track (50) of the optical disc (2), **wherein said session**

states pertain to a session's length,position and starting point and said track states pertain to the status of each session track being one of open, closed or invisible and wherein said session information is only retrievable from said memory chip (60) by initiating a session state read/write process from a control circuit of an optical disc drive read/write apparatus (1) configured for reading optical information directly from said optical disc (2).

13. (Currently Amended) Reading apparatus (1) for reading information from an optical disc (2) suitable for optically storing information in multiple sessions (51), having a memory chip (60) containing session information stored therein, wherein the stored session information pertains to session states and track states pertaining to the stored information in multiple sessions (51), **wherein said session states pertain to a session's length, position and starting point and said track states pertain to the status of each session track being one of open, closed or invisible,** the reading apparatus being adapted for reading said session information from a memory chip (60) and using this information when accessing information stored in the multiple sessions (51) of a track (50) of said optical disc (2) , and wherein said session information is only retrievable from said memory chip (60) by initiating a session state read/write process from a control circuit of an optical disc drive read/write apparatus (1) configured for reading optical information directly from said optical disc (2).

14. (Currently Amended) Writing apparatus (1) for writing information to said storage device (2), the writing apparatus (1) being adapted for reading information from a memory chip (60) of said storage device (2) and using this information when accessing written track portions (51) of a track (50) of the storage device (2), the writing apparatus (1) being further adapted to store session information into said memory chip (60) after having performed a write operation to said track (50) of the storage device (2), **wherein said session information pertains to session states and track states, wherein said session states pertain to a session's length, position and starting point and said track states pertain to the status of each session track being one of open, closed or invisible,** and wherein said session information is only retrievable from said memory chip (60) by initiating a session state read/write process from a control circuit of an optical disc drive read/write apparatus (1) configured for reading optical information directly from said optical disc (2).